

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**EDWARD DURANTE,
ABIDA KHAN,
LARRY WERBEL,
CHRISTOPHER CERVINO,
WALTER REISSMAN,
KENNETH WISE
and
EVOLUTION PARTNERS WEALTH
MANAGEMENT LLC,**

Defendants.

ECF CASE

15-CV-9874-RJS

FINAL JUDGMENT AS TO EDWARD DURANTE

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") commenced this action on December 18, 2015. On _____, 2018, Defendant Edward Durante ("Defendant") executed a declaration whereby he acknowledged having entered a general appearance; consented to the Court's jurisdiction over Defendant and the subject matter of this action; consented to entry of this final Judgment (the "Final Judgment"); waived findings of fact and conclusions of law; and waived any right to appeal from this Final Judgment:

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating, directly or indirectly, Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and

Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5], by using any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or of the mails, or of any facility of any national securities exchange, in connection with the purchase or sale of any security:

- (a) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;
- (b) to make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- (c) to engage in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)] in the offer or sale of any security by the use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by use of the mails, directly or indirectly:

- (a) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;
- (b) to obtain money or property by means of any untrue statement of a material fact or any omission of a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- (c) to engage in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating Section 9(a)(1) of the Exchange Act [15

U.S.C. § 78i(a)(1)] directly or indirectly, by the use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or of any facility of any national securities exchange, for the purpose of creating a false or misleading appearance of active trading in any security other than a government security, or a false or misleading appearance with respect to the market for any such security, entering orders for the purchase or sale of a security with the knowledge that an order or orders of substantially the same size, at substantially the same time, and at substantially the same price, for the sale or purchase of any such security, has been or will be entered by or for the same or different parties.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from soliciting transactions in any security.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is liable for disgorgement of \$15,404,231, representing profits gained as a result of the conduct alleged in the Complaint, which is deemed satisfied by the criminal forfeiture order entered against Defendant in *U.S. v. Durante*, 15-CR-171 (S.D.N.Y.). Civil money penalties pursuant to Section 20(d) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(d)] and Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3)] are not being imposed in light of Defendant's sentence in the criminal action *U.S. v. Durante*.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant's Consent is incorporated herein with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein, and that Defendant shall comply with all of the undertakings and agreements set forth therein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, for purposes of exceptions to discharge set forth in Section 523 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523, the allegations in the complaint are true and admitted by Defendant, and further, any debt for disgorgement, prejudgment interest, civil penalty or other amounts due by Defendant under this Final Judgment or any other judgment, order, consent order, decree or settlement agreement entered in connection with this proceeding, is a debt for the violation by Defendant of the federal securities laws or any regulation or order issued under such laws, as set forth in Section 523(a)(19) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(19).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for the purposes of enforcing the terms of this Final Judgment. *See Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am.*, 511 U.S. 375, 381 (1994).

There being no just reason for delay, pursuant to Rule 54(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Clerk is ordered to enter this Final Judgment forthwith and without further notice. SO ORDERED.

Dated: _____, 2018

New York, New York

RICHARD J. SULLIVAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**EDWARD DURANTE,
ABIDA KHAN,
LARRY WERBEL,
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WALTER REISSMAN,
KENNETH WISE
and
EVOLUTION PARTNERS WEALTH
MANAGEMENT LLC,**

Defendants.

ECF CASE

15-CV-9874-RJS

CONSENT OF EDWARD DURANTE

1. Defendant Edward Durante (“Durante” or “Defendant”) acknowledges having been served with the complaint in this action, enters a general appearance, and admits the Court’s jurisdiction over Defendant and over the subject matter of this action.

2. Defendant has pled guilty to criminal conduct relating to certain matters alleged in the complaint in this action. Specifically, in *United States v. Durante*, Crim. No. 15-CR-171 (S.D.N.Y.), Defendant pled guilty to violation of, among other things, Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)]. The indictment in the criminal case to which Durante pled guilty alleges, among other things, that from in or about 2009 through at least March 2015 he participated in a scheme to defraud victim-investors in VGTel, Inc. (“VGTL”) stock in which victim-investors were induced to invest in private shares

of VGTL through false and misleading statements and the market for publicly traded shares of VGTL was manipulated for the purpose of inflating the price and increasing the trading volume of the stock. This Consent shall remain in full force and effect regardless of the existence or outcome of any further proceedings in *United States v. Durante*.

3. Defendant hereby consents to the entry of the final Judgment in the form attached hereto (the "Final Judgment") and incorporated by reference herein, which, among other things:

- (a) permanently restrains and enjoins Defendant from violation of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)], and Sections 9(a)(1) and 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78i(a)(1) and 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5], and from soliciting transactions in any security;
- (b) orders that Defendant is liable for disgorgement of \$15,404,231, representing profits gained as a result of the conduct alleged in the Complaint, which is deemed satisfied by the criminal forfeiture order entered against Defendant in *U.S. v. Durante*, 15-CR-171 (S.D.N.Y.); and
- (c) orders that civil money penalties pursuant to Section 20(d) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(d)] and Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3)] are not being imposed in light of Defendant's sentence in the criminal action *U.S. v. Durante*.

4. Defendant waives the entry of findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to Rule 52 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

5. Defendant waives the right, if any, to a jury trial and to appeal from the entry of

the Final Judgment.

6. Defendant enters into this Consent voluntarily and represents that no threats, offers, promises, or inducements of any kind have been made by the Commission or any member, officer, employee, agent, or representative of the Commission to induce Defendant to enter into this Consent.

7. Defendant agrees that this Consent shall be incorporated into the Final Judgment with the same force and effect as if fully set forth therein.

8. Defendant will not oppose the enforcement of the Final Judgment on the ground, if any exists, that it fails to comply with Rule 65(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and hereby waives any objection based thereon.

9. Defendant waives service of the Final Judgment and agrees that entry of the Final Judgment by the Court and filing with the Clerk of the Court will constitute notice to Defendant of its terms and conditions. Defendant further agrees to provide counsel for the Commission, within thirty days after the Final Judgment is filed with the Clerk of the Court, with an affidavit or declaration stating that Defendant has received and read a copy of the Final Judgment.

10. Consistent with 17 C.F.R. 202.5(f), this Consent resolves only the claims asserted against Defendant in this civil proceeding. Defendant acknowledges that no promise or representation has been made by the Commission or any member, officer, employee, agent, or representative of the Commission with regard to any criminal liability that may have arisen or may arise from the facts underlying this action or immunity from any such criminal liability. Defendant waives any claim of Double Jeopardy based upon the settlement of this proceeding, including the imposition of any remedy or civil penalty herein. Defendant further acknowledges that the Court's entry of a permanent injunction may have collateral consequences under federal

or state law and the rules and regulations of self-regulatory organizations, licensing boards, and other regulatory organizations. Such collateral consequences include, but are not limited to, a statutory disqualification with respect to membership or participation in, or association with a member of, a self-regulatory organization. This statutory disqualification has consequences that are separate from any sanction imposed in an administrative proceeding. In addition, in any disciplinary proceeding before the Commission based on the entry of the injunction in this action, Defendant understands that he shall not be permitted to contest the factual allegations of the complaint in this action.

11. Defendant understands and agrees to comply with the terms of 17 C.F.R. § 202.5(e), which provides in part that it is the Commission's policy "not to permit a defendant or respondent to consent to a judgment or order that imposes a sanction while denying the allegations in the complaint or order for proceedings." As part of Defendant's agreement to comply with the terms of Section 202.5(c), Defendant acknowledges the guilty plea for related conduct described in paragraph 2 above, and: (i) will not take any action or make or permit to be made any public statement denying, directly or indirectly, any allegation in the complaint or creating the impression that the complaint is without factual basis; (ii) will not make or permit to be made any public statement to the effect that Defendant does not admit the allegations of the complaint, or that this Consent contains no admission of the allegations; (iii) upon the filing of this Consent, Defendant hereby withdraws any papers filed in this action to the extent that they deny any allegation in the complaint; and (iv) stipulates for purposes of exceptions to discharge set forth in Section 523 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523, that the allegations in the complaint are true, and further, that any debt for disgorgement, prejudgment interest, civil penalty or other amounts due by Defendant under the Final Judgment or any other judgment,

order, consent order, decree or settlement agreement entered in connection with this proceeding, is a debt for the violation by Defendant of the federal securities laws or any regulation or order issued under such laws, as set forth in Section 523(a)(19) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(19). If Defendant breaches this agreement, the Commission may petition the Court to vacate the Final Judgment and restore this action to its active docket. Nothing in this paragraph affects Defendant's: (i) testimonial obligations; or (ii) right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which the Commission is not a party.

12. Defendant hereby waives any rights under the Equal Access to Justice Act, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, or any other provision of law to seek from the United States, or any agency, or any official of the United States acting in his or her official capacity, directly or indirectly, reimbursement of attorney's fees or other fees, expenses, or costs expended by Defendant to defend against this action. For these purposes, Defendant agrees that Defendant is not the prevailing party in this action since the parties have reached a good faith settlement.

13. In connection with this action and any related judicial or administrative proceeding or investigation commenced by the Commission or to which the Commission is a party, Defendant (i) will accept service by mail or facsimile transmission of notices or subpoenas issued by the Commission for documents or testimony at depositions, hearings, or trials, or in connection with any related investigation by Commission staff; (ii) with respect to such notices and subpoenas, waives the territorial limits on service contained in Rule 45 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and any applicable local rules, provided that the party requesting the testimony reimburses Defendant's travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses at the then-prevailing U.S. Government per diem rates; and (iii) consents to personal jurisdiction over Defendant in any

United States District Court for purposes of enforcing any such subpoena.

14. Defendant agrees that the Commission may present the Final Judgment to the Court for signature and entry without further notice.

15. Defendant agrees that this Court shall retain jurisdiction over this matter for the purpose of enforcing the terms of the Final Judgment.

Dated: 7-24-18, 2018

Edward Durante
Edward Durante

On July 24, 2018, Edward Durante, a person known to me, personally appeared before me and acknowledged executing the foregoing Consent.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
NOTARIAL SEAL
Laura B. Riedel, Notary Public
Loretto Boro, Cambria County
My Commission Expires March 29, 2020
MEMBER, PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NOTARIES

Laura B. Riedel
Notary Public
Commission expires: 03/29/2020

SO ORDERED

Dated: MAR 20 2019, 2018
New York, NY

George B. Daniels
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE